AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A stretcher supporter, comprising:

an open frame having a center rail~~;~~ and comprising:

_____a pair of arch shaped stretcher attachment elements that securely attaches a stretcher to said open frame, wherein the arched stretcher attachment elements are attached to the center rail and wherein each arched stretcher attachment element has a pair of ends that can be positioned generally adjacent to a corner of the stretcher;

_____an adjustable lifting point connected to the center rail ~~and~~ for suspending said open frame; and

_____a shiftable, rotatable column that substantially balances said stretcher respective to said open frame.

2. (Original) The stretcher supporter of claim 1, wherein said adjustable lifting point comprises a plunger mechanism.

3. (Original) The stretcher supporter of claim 2, wherein said plunger mechanism further comprises a spring loaded pin and a series of holes, and wherein said spring loaded pin is insertable into any one of said holes.

4. (Original) The stretcher supporter of claim 3, wherein said series of holes are about one inch apart.

5. (Original) The adjustable supporter of claim 1, wherein said adjustable lifting point is positioned by a constricting pressure mechanism.

6. (Previously Amended) The stretcher supporter of claim 1, wherein said open frame comprises at least four attachment points for said secure attachment of said stretcher.

7. (Previously Amended) The stretcher supporter of claim 6, wherein said at least four attachment points further comprise hooks for said secure attachment of said stretcher.

8. (Previously Amended) The stretcher supporter of claim 1, wherein said arched stretcher attachment elements comprise two hemispherical arms connected to a center rail at the apex of said two hemispherical arms.

9. (Original) The stretcher supporter of claim 1, wherein said open frame is composed of at least one selected from the group consisting of metal, plastic, and fiberglass.

10. (Original) The stretcher supporter of claim 1, wherein said open frame comprises cables.

11.. (Original) The stretcher supporter of claim 1, wherein said adjustable lifting point is adjusted by an electrical motor.

12. (Original) The stretcher supporter of claim 11, wherein said adjustable lifting point is controlled by a computing device.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of balancing a stretcher supporter for a patient lifting device, comprising:

securely attaching a stretcher to an open frame comprising ~~of~~ said stretcher supporter, wherein the stretcher supporter has a pair of arch shaped stretcher attachment elements attached to a center rail and wherein each arched stretcher attachment element has a pair of ends that can be positioned generally adjacent to a corner of a stretcher; and

adjusting a lifting point connected to said open frame, wherein said adjusting a lifting point suspends said open frame and rotatably shifts to substantially balance said stretcher respective to said open frame.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein adjusting said lifting point comprises de pressurizing a plunger mechanism.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said plunger mechanism comprises a spring loaded pin and a series of holes, and wherein said spring loaded pin is insertable into any one of said holes.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said series of holes are about one inch apart.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said adjusting comprises constricting by pressure.

18. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said open frame comprises at least four attachment points for said secure attachment of said stretcher.

19. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein said at least four attachment points further comprise hooks for said secure attachment of said stretcher.

20. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said arched stretcher attachment elements comprises two hemispherical arms connected to a center rail at the apex of said two hemispherical arms.